

November 20, 2008

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Not only can you do all of your Christmas shopping in Burleson, but you can do it safely thanks to the Burleson Police Department.

The department's newly expanded sworn bicycle officer unit, the police traffic unit, and members of the Citizens On Patrol will be out in force the day after Thanksgiving . . . Friday, Nov. 28 . . . the busiest shopping day of the year.

The traffic unit (motorcycles and cars) will focus on the major shopping areas to deter unsafe driving in an attempt to prevent some crashes. The sworn bicycle officer unit will concentrate on Wal Mart and the South Towne Crossing (Target, Office Depot, Home Depot) retail centers on Hwy. 174 as well as Gateway Station on I-35W.

There will be teams of Citizens on Patrol members at each of the major department store parking lots. There will be a roving team in a vehicle and possibly COPs members manning booths in front of Wal Mart, Target, and Gateway Station.

The COPs will be easy to identify. Team members wear light blue uniform shirts with light blue COP jackets and ball caps that are marked Citizens On Patrol. Team members in vehicles will be identified with magnetic signs that say Burleson Citizens On Patrol. Some COPs members may be on bicycles.

The sworn officer bicycle unit will be in the standard dark blue uniforms.

COPs are the eyes and ears of the police department. COPs do not initiate contact with a suspect. The role of a Citizen On Patrol is to observe and report.

For more information about this release, call the public information office at 817-447-5400, ext. 286.